

reported the following order, which was adopted :

The committee of accounts beg leave to report that the several accounts herewith filed numbered respectively, No. 1, 2, 3 and 4; have been examined by them, which they believe correct, that under resolution No. 67, passed at December session 1849, they are of opinion they should be paid by an order on the Treasury, drawn by the President of this body, they beg leave to suggest the adoption of the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That the amount of the accompanying accounts, being \$458.14, be paid by an order drawn on the Treasury by the President of this Convention.

G. WELLS.

W. WILLIAMS,

EDWARD LLOYD.

ALEX. NEILL, Jr.,

ELIAS WARE, Jr.

*Committee on Accounts.*

#### MASTER AND SLAVE.

Mr. PRESSTMAN submitted the following order:

*Resolved*, That the Legislature shall not pass any law to abolish the relation of master and slave as it now exists in this State, and that the committee on the Legislative Department be instructed to report an article to carry out this provision."

Some conversation followed between Messrs. BLAKISTONE, PRESSTMAN and the PRESIDENT, as to the fact whether a similar proposition had not heretofore been referred to Committee No. 14.

Mr. PRESSTMAN said he did not think that the subject matter embraced in this resolution had already been referred, or that any order had been submitted to the Convention going to the extent contemplated by it. If the subject had been referred in this particular form, he had no wish to press the resolution; but he thought that no order had been referred denying to the Legislature the power to act upon the question of the relation of master and slave. His desire was to insert a guarantee in the new Constitution upon slavery as it now existed in the State of Maryland, and, providing that it should not be changed by the Legislature. In making a Constitution, he was prepared to look to compromises, with a view to obtain more confidence on the part of the counties than now existed in relation to the matter of slavery. He believed that there was no desire on the part of his constituents to interfere with the relation of master and slave as it now existed; and they would be prepared to sustain a Constitution embodying such a provision. He thought it was important that, in the early stages of the proceedings of the Convention on the subject of representation, gentlemen should understand that, whatever its basis might hereafter be, the rights of property as regarded the relation of master and slave would be secure. He intended to press the resolution with a view to obtain the speedy action of the Convention upon it, and he believed there was a large majority here ready to sustain it.

Mr. SPRIGG said, that on Wednesday, the 4th of December, he had offered the following order, which had been referred to the committee on the Legislative department:

*Resolved*, That the committee on the Legislative department of the government, enquire into the expediency of engrafting on that branch of the Constitution, a clause prohibiting the Legislature from passing any law affecting the existing relation of master and slave in this State."

Mr. BROWN remarked that there was no such committee as a committee on the colored population. There was a committee on the free colored population. He would suggest that the resolution should be referred to Committee No. 14, and he (Mr. B.) would vote for that reform with pleasure.

Mr. PRESSTMAN said that his object was different from that of the gentleman, (Mr. SPRIGG.) The order introduced by the latter gentleman, proposed to direct the com. on the Legislative department of the government to enquire into the expediency, &c. Now, his (Mr. P's.) object was to carry out the entire view embraced in the resolution of the gentleman in the present proposition, as he (Mr. S.) would probably desire it should come from the Committee.

Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent, (to the PRESIDENT.) Is it in order for a proposition identically the same as one previously offered, to be renewed? I hold, in justice to my friend, (Mr. SPRIGG,) that, as this is precisely the same proposition which he introduced some time ago, it is not in order now to renew it.

Mr. PRESSTMAN. I admit that the two propositions are of a similar character, but I deny that I have not the right to offer a resolution, the object of which is to take the sense of the Convention on any subject. I would not have offered the resolution if I had not known that the object it has in view is agreeable to a majority of the Convention. But if the gentleman (Mr. SPRIGG) has any objection, personally, I shall certainly withdraw the order. I hope he will understand the spirit in which I offer it.

Mr. DORSEY. I ask for the reading of the resolution.

The resolution having been again read,

Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent, said, I withdraw all objection.

Mr. BOWIE. The gentleman from Kent, (Mr. CHAMBERS,) will, I think, perceive at once the difference between the two propositions. The one which my colleague, (Mr. SPRIGG,) submitted was a mere resolution of enquiry. The resolution of the gentleman from Baltimore city, (Mr. PRESSTMAN,) I understand to be a resolution directly instructing the Committee on the Legislative department of the government to report such a provision.

Mr. SPRIGG. Personally, I have not the slightest objection that the House should refer this proposition.

Mr. DASHIELL. It seems to me that this resolution comes from rather a suspicious source: slavery not being much in favor in the city of Baltimore. It comes from a part of the State of Maryland, which is called Western Maryland, where, I repeat, no great interest in slavery is felt. It seems from the remarks of the gentleman from Baltimore city, that he designs to gain votes and influence upon other questions, in